

cally sulcated; longitudinally very finely radiately striated; anteriorly rounded and wider, posteriorly narrower, angulated and abruptly truncated; ventral margin arched, entire; pallial impression with a small sinus; hinge with the tooth of the left valve deeply fissured anteriorly.

*Hab.* Catanuan, province of Tayabas, island of Luzon, in sand at low water; *H. C.* (Mus. Cuming.)

*SPHÆNIA PHILIPPINARUM*, Adams. *S. testā ovali, transversā, subinæquivalvā, albā, tenui, ventricosā, inæquilaterali; latere antico longiore, rotundato, lævi; postico breviorē, radiatim striato, vix truncato; epidermide fusco tenui tectā; margine ventrali interdum subsinuato; impressione palliali sinu parvo; dente cardinis valvulæ sinistræ trilobato.*

*Hab.* in insulis Philippinis.

Shell oval, transverse, slightly inequivalve, thin, white, ventricose, inequilateral; anterior side longest, rounded, smooth; posterior side shortest, radiately striated, slightly truncated and covered with a very thin brown epidermis; ventral margin sometimes slightly sinuated; pallial impression with a small sinus; hinge with the cardinal tooth of the left valve trilobate. (Mollusca, Pl. X. fig. 7—9.)

*Hab.* Sibunga, island of Zebu, fine sand, 30 fathoms; *H. C.* Bay of Manila, clayey sand, 6 fathoms; *H. C.* (Mus. Cuming.)

*SPHÆNIA RÜPPELLII*, Adams. *S. testā transverso-elongatā, transversè striatā, epidermide fusco tectā; latere antico breviorē, rotundato, gibboso, obsoletè radiatim striato; postico longiorē, angustiorē, subrostrato, truncato; dente cardinis valvulæ sinistræ subsinuato.*

*Hab.* in Mari Rubro.

Shell transversely elongated, covered with a reddish-brown epidermis, transversely striated; anterior side the shortest, rounded, gibbose, obsoletely radiately striated; posterior side narrower, rather beaked, widely gaping and truncate; tooth of left valve slightly sinuated.

*Hab.* Red Sea; *Dr. Rüppell.*

*SPHÆNIA MINDORENSIS*, Adams and Reeve.

*Voy. Zool. Samarang, t. 23. f. 13. (as mya)*

May 14, 1850.

William Yarrell, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary stated that, through the liberality of Ronald Gunn, Esq., and Dr. Grant, of Launceston, the Menagerie had been enriched by the safe arrival of two living specimens of *Thylacinus cynocephalus* (Mammalia, Pl. XVIII.): and he read the following letter in reference to this most valuable and interesting gift, which has

added one of the rarest and most difficult forms to the series of Marsupials which have hitherto been exhibited in the Gardens:—

“Launceston, Van Diemen's Land, 29th December, 1849.

“SIR,—I have shipped on board the barque *Stirlingshire*, Chris<sup>t</sup>. Gwatkin, master, two living Thylacines (male and female) for the Zoological Society of London, and which I trust will reach you alive and well. Captain Gwatkin, whom I have known for some years, has promised his utmost personal care and attention to them during the passage home. I have put on board twelve fat sheep (together with hay for their sustenance) as sea-stores for the Thylacines, and have made every arrangement I could think of to ensure their safe arrival in London.

“I have had the female in confinement for upwards of six months, and it has become sufficiently tame to permit its head to be scratched, or to be otherwise touched through the bars of its prison, without showing any anger or irritation. The male, for which the Society is indebted to my friend Dr. James Grant of Launceston, was only caught a month ago. We placed it at once with the female, with which it seems upon the best of terms, but it is not yet so familiar with the presence of man. I have purposely kept their cage close to the side of a path where many of my servants pass daily, and where my children are in the habit of playing, and I find that beyond a hissing noise made by the *male*, they do not seem at all disturbed by any one going close to them.

“I have fed them exclusively upon mutton. They prefer the parts containing bones, and do not seem to relish the liver, heart, lights, &c.

“Both these animals have been caught in snares upon the upper part of the St. Patrick's River, about thirty miles N.E. of Launceston.

“The female, which was first caught, was placed for some time in a small unfinished house at the St. Patrick's until I could devise means of getting her down here; and when I sent a trustworthy person <sup>up</sup> for her, he assured me that she was excessively agile—springing from the floor to the top of the walls, 6 to 8 feet, and from joist to joist near the roof with the activity of a cat. He also informed me that the Thylacine will not eat the *Wombat*, an animal exceedingly abundant on the St. Patrick's River, and with which they attempted to feed it during the month it was there, previous to my having it brought down to my residence. Otherwise I have not had any great opportunity of observing any peculiar habits.

“Both Dr. Grant and I continue to offer high rewards for living specimens, and you shall have all the benefit of our success, whatever it may be. The great increase of sheep in all directions obliges the shepherds to destroy them by every possible means, and they are rarely caught alive, or if so caught, are killed whilst in the snares. I am therefore more than usually anxious that these should reach you safely, and I have offered the Captain a proportionate reward for their delivery alive.



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AQUILA AUDAX Lath.

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"An observation of mine, contained in a letter to Sir W. Hooker, and which was not meant for publication, has been misunderstood, and has led to the propagation of error—for which I am very sorry. In it I said the Thylacine's tail was *not compressed*—in reference to an observation of Mr. Swainson's in the 'Encyclopædia of Geography' (then recently published), that the tail of the Thylacine was compressed, *which suggested the supposition that it was used in swimming*, &c. It was to the latter part of this observation that my remarks were particularly applied (vide Annals of Nat. Hist. vol. i. p. 101-2), and I meant that the tail was not compressed to such an extent as to have justified the inference that it was useful in swimming; and thus that the animal obtained its food principally from the sea, which the paragraph in the 'Encyclopædia of Geography' implied. The tail is obviously slightly compressed, but not, I think, more so than the tails of the Dasyures, to which aquatic habits are not attributed. In writing hurriedly—and not for publication—I did not express myself with the precision I ought to have done. I mainly wished to point out that the tail would not justify the inference of Mr. Swainson (which I thought very far strained), that the animal was aquatic in its habits and piscivorous. Pray set me right whenever you have an opportunity.

"I beg to remain, Sir, yours very faithfully,

"RONALD C. GUNN."

"D. W. Mitchell, Esq., Secretary Zoological Society."

The Secretary then called the attention of the meeting to three eggs of the Wedge-tailed Eagle of Australia, *Aquila audax*, Lath., which had been recently laid in the Menagerie (Aves, Pl. XIX.), and which were probably the only perfect specimens yet known. The same female had produced two eggs in the spring of 1849, but they were immediately destroyed either by herself or the male, as fragments only were discovered by the keeper.

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS. BY J. GOULD, F.R.S. &c. &c.  
(Aves, Pl. XX.)

It is no less interesting than true, that during the past two years we have had accessions in ornithology of no ordinary value; comprising as they do additional species of several anomalous forms, of each of which only one was previously known; for instance, we have a second species of the genera *Apteryx*, *Menura*, and *Ptiloris*. On the present occasion I have the good fortune to offer to the notice of this Meeting new species of two forms, equal in interest to those above referred to, viz. that of *Cephalopterus*, a form known to all as being American, and of which the type is the remarkable species *Cephalopterus ornatus*, commonly called the Umbrella Bird. The discovery of a second species of this form is due to the researches of M. Warzewickz, a gentleman who has just returned from Central America, after trav-

sing parts of that country hitherto untrodden by Europeans: it was in the high Cordillera of Chiriqué in Veragua, at an elevation of 8000 feet, that this bird was found, and of which the individual now exhibited was the only one procured.

CEPHALOPTERUS GLABRICOLLIS. (Aves, Pl. XX.)

This new species differs in many particulars from its congener, particularly in its smaller size, in the lesser development of its umbrella-like hood, and in its denuded fore-neck and chest, and in the absence of feathers on the base of the tab or appendage at the basal part of the neck. M. Warzewickz describes the bare part of the neck to be reddish orange, and the bare base of the tab as bright red. This fine bird forms part of the collection of T. B. Wilson, Esq., of Philadelphia.

Independently of the novelty just described, M. Warzewickz brought me six species of Humming Birds entirely new to science; these, with some other new species of the same group, I propose to characterize at a future meeting.

By Lord Gifford, who has recently returned from a journey in Thibet, ornithology has been enriched by the discovery of a new species of *Syrnhaptēs*, a form as extraordinary in its way as that of any of those above noticed; the new species is finer both in size and colouring than the *Syrnhaptēs paradoxus*; it was shot on the banks of the Stumererri Lake, where two examples were seen, but unfortunately only one was procured; it appears to be an adult male, for which I propose the name of

SYRRHAPTES TIBETANUS.

Face hoary; front and sides of the neck ochreous yellow; feathers of the head and nape brown at the base, and alternately barred at the tip with black and white; upper part of the back, front and sides of the breast buffy white, crossed by narrow irregular bars of blackish brown; all the upper surface and wings buff, pencilled all over with dark brown, the pencillings being conspicuous on the back, and so minute on the wings as to be almost imperceptible; scapularies largely blotched on their inner webs with black; primaries and secondaries slaty black, the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth primaries with an oblique mark of brownish white at the tip; basal half of the two centre tail-feathers buff, pencilled with brown, their apical half narrow, filamentous and black; lateral tail-feathers sandy red, crossed by three widely placed irregular bands of black, and tipped with buffy white; under surface buffy white, minutely pencilled on the breast with brown; legs of the same hue, but the feathers banded with faint bars of brown; bill and nails black.

Total length,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches; bill,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ; wing, 10; tail,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi, 1.

*Hab.* Ladakh in Thibet.

*Remark.* Distinguished from the *S. paradoxus* by its much larger size, by the primaries not being extended into the filamentous form so remarkable in that species, and by the absence of any black colouring on the breast.









The only example which has come under my notice is in the possession of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Gifford, to whom I am indebted for permission to include a figure of it in my work on the 'Birds of Asia.'

Extraordinary as have been the new species discovered during the last few years, of that remarkable group the *Ramphastidæ*, no one is more singular than the bird which I now submit to the notice of the Meeting; it may be regarded as an evidence that all the members of the group are not yet known to us, and that the productions of the rich forests of the Cordillerian Andes appear to be inexhaustible. It had long been my intention to propose a generic name for the Andean group of Toucans, characterized by the dense villose clothing of the under surface, the colouring of which is of a uniform tint, instead of being crossed by bars of black, red and yellow as in the typical *Pteroglossi*; and at no moment could such a step be more appropriately taken than at the present, when characterizing a new species of this section, for which, indicative of the country in which the members are found, I propose the generic term of *Andigena*, and for the new species, *A. laminirostris*; the other species pertaining to this genus are *A. hypoglaucus*, *A. nigrirostris*, *A. cucullatus*, and *A. Bailloni*. The new species *A. laminirostris*, which is distinguished by the yellow laminæ near the base of the upper mandible, is the property of Dr. T. B. Wilson of Philadelphia, to whom and to his brother, E. Wilson, Esq., I am indebted for permission to describe this fine bird; the native habitat of which is the forests at the base of Pichincha, a high mountain of Ecuador.

#### GENUS ANDIGENA.

*Gen. Char.*—Bill stout, swollen, and moderately large when compared with the bill of the true *Pteroglossi*; wings and tail very similar to those of *Aulacorhynchus*. General plumage long, loose, and hair-like.

The species belonging to this genus are—

*Andigena hypoglaucus* (*Pteroglossus hypoglaucus*, Gould).

— *cucullatus* (*Pteroglossus cucullatus*, Gould).

— *nigrirostris* (*Pteroglossus nigrirostris*, Waterh.).

— *laminirostris*, Gould.

— *Bailloni* (*Pteroglossus Bailloni*, Wagl.).

All are characterized by a uniform wash of colour on the under surface, in lieu of the bars of rich red and black so conspicuous in the true *Pteroglossi*.

#### ANDIGENA LAMINIROSTRIS.

Crown of the head and back of the neck deep black; upper surface golden brown; primaries black; rump pale sulphur-yellow; upper tail-coverts very dark green; tail dark slaty grey, four central feathers largely tipped with chestnut-red; under surface ashy blue; on either flank a large patch of rich yellow; thighs deep chestnut; under tail-coverts blood-red; orbits apparently orange; culmen and apical half of both mandibles black; a broad band on the base of

the upper mandible and the basal half of the lower mandible deep blood-red ; on either side of the upper mandible, immediately in front of the blood-red basal band, is a large buff-coloured plate or lamina, continuous with the structure of the bill at its base, but separate and detached in front, thin on its upper edge, but thicker and projecting beyond the edge of the mandible below ; feet slaty blue.

Total length, 18 inches ; bill,  $3\frac{3}{8}$  ; wing,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  ; tail,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  ; tarsi,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Hab.* Neighbourhood of Quito.

*Remark.* The only example I have seen belongs to the collection of T. B. Wilson, Esq., of Philadelphia, and which has been kindly lent to me by his brother Edward Wilson, Esq., to enrich my Monograph of the *Ramphastidæ*.

Equally inexhaustible appear to be the *Odontophorinæ* or Partridges of America, for in the rich Museum of Leyden, I lately found a species which was previously unknown to me ; it pertains to the genus *Odontophorus*, and I propose for it the name of *Odontophorus Columbianus*.

#### ODONTOPHORUS COLUMBIANUS.

Crown of the head brown, minutely freckled with black ; back of the neck washed with rufous ; over each eye an indistinct mottled stripe ; throat white, irregularly spotted, especially on the sides, with black ; upper surface brown, washed with grey on the centre of the feathers, each of which is delicately pencilled with black, and has a narrow stripe of buff, bounded on each side by a narrower one of black, down the centre ; those of the scapularies and wing-coverts have moreover a large patch of rich dark brown on the inner web near the tip, bounded above by two narrow lines, one of buff, the other of dark brown ; primaries brown ; secondaries brown, freckled and barred with dark brown, and washed with rufous ; tertiaries brown, washed with grey and rufous, freckled with black, having a broad V-shaped mark of black near the tip, and broadly margined and tipped internally with deep buff ; under surface reddish brown, each feather with a large irregularly-shaped mark of white margined with black near the tip ; under tail-coverts, and vent mottled reddish brown and sandy buff ; bill black ; feet lead-colour.

Total length, 11 inches ; bill, 1 ; wing,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  ; tail,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ; tarsi, 2 ; middle toe and nail,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ .

*Hab.* Caraccas.

*Remark.*—The fine specimen gracing the Museum at Leyden was transmitted by M. Landsberger, Netherlands Consul at Caraccas. There is also another specimen, from, I believe, the same locality, which differs in having the under surface of a nearly uniform greyish brown, with here and there a few of the white marks so conspicuous in the bird above described ; it is also of a somewhat smaller size, but notwithstanding these differences, the two birds appear to be one and the same species.

The *O. Columbianus* has a stouter bill, and is of a larger size than *O. dentatus*, but is smaller than *O. Balliviani*, to which it is most nearly allied.